

**BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**DAVIE TOWN HALL**  
**6591 ORANGE DRIVE**  
**July 16, 2007 – 5:30 p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Robert Preziosi, Chair  
Scott Spages, Vice Chair  
Dan Barr

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

David Oakes  
Stuart Podel

**ALSO PRESENT**

William Ackerman, Budget and Finance Director  
Carol Menke, Deputy Budget and Finance Director  
Don DiPetrillo, Fire Chief  
Steve Eggnatz, Deputy Fire Chief

**1. ROLL CALL**

Chair Preziosi called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. Attendance was taken and a quorum was present.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2.1) June 18, 2007

**Motion** made by Vice Chair Spages, seconded by Mr. Barr, to approve the June 18, 2007 minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Preziosi requested that Item 4.2 be taken out of order on the agenda.

4.2) Public Safety User Fees – Fire Chief DiPetrillo

Vice Chair Spages stated it would not be necessary for Fire Chief DiPetrillo to do a presentation; it was a matter of “this Committee going back to the Mayor and Council and reinvigorating the proposal for us to do highway billing.” He stated there are several key points to address, as there has been misinformation reported, i.e., 1) highway fatalities cost Davie more than others and have a higher percentage of non-Davie residents, 2) there are other cities doing this,

3) insurance companies are billed, not individuals, 4) the whole County benefits from this service as opposed to local roads, and 5) this is a “knee jerk” reaction to the budget cuts.

Fire Chief DiPetrillo did not believe that the ordinance as drafted had as narrow a focus as the Council had requested. The Town Attorney was unsure if the wording of the ordinance could be narrowed, but it could be revisited; however, Council had pulled this matter off the agenda, so no further work has been done with respect to the wording of the ordinance. The issue was not permissibility or legality, but how the ordinance would be applied.

Fire Chief DiPetrillo felt the problem was that this matter was rushed to the agenda after sitting on the back burner, which had not given the Town Attorney an opportunity to get with Council to point out the “red flags” prior to the meeting. He felt the ordinance needs further defining and also, from a public relations standpoint, there had been no discussion regarding what they were actually trying to accomplish.

Ms. Menke agreed the ordinance needed “tweaking” as the Council was not in favor of charging for routine incidents, although they had seemed open-minded toward charging for catastrophic events.

Fire Chief DiPetrillo added that factoring in police response and specifically defining “catastrophic” events were problems needing further discussion.

The procedure, according to Fire Chief DiPetrillo is the vendor bills the insurance company for “our piece and separately bills them for their own”; nothing is paid out by Davie and the Town “just receives whatever is in the mail.” The general collection amounts are approximately 50% as some insurance companies refuse to pay; no bill is sent to the person provided the service. Four to five thousand calls per year are responded to by Davie for Interstate accidents. Savings to the Town could be in excess of \$500,000 per year. The plan was to bill the insurance companies for at-fault parties. Major interstates serviced by Davie are I-595, State Road 7, and the Turnpike.

**Motion** made by Vice Chair Spages, seconded by Mr. Barr, to recommend that the Town Administrator revisit the Public Safety Recapture Ordinance, working the ordinance in conjunction with the Town Attorney, the Fire Department, and the Police Chief to re-present it to the Budget Advisory Committee. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

3.1) Annual Report – January 31, 2007

Chair Preziosi stated he is still working on the Annual Report.

3.2) Vehicle Usage Policy

Ms. Menke stated she briefly discussed the vehicle usage policy with Mr. Ackerman but has not yet worked it. She provided to the Committee documentation showing the employees with Town vehicles, as well as the overall number of vehicles. It was her hope to have the policy ready for discussion at the next meeting.

3.3) Department Liaison Reports

Mr. Barr met with Mr. Diez, Director of Public Works and Capital Projects. He noted that Mr. Diez has been with the Town for six weeks and the department had no director for over ten months. Mr. Diez is working on State-mandated reductions by reviewing the 2008 budget and has succeeded in an 11.5% reduction so far. Six additional positions requested for 2008 have been eliminated and six currently open positions will be going unfilled. A goals and action plan prepared by Mr. Diez was reviewed and approved of by Mr. Barr. Parks maintenance (currently at 2003 staffing levels) was mentioned. Mr. Diez stated contracted services will be reduced, and they will be utilizing existing in-house personnel more. With regard to credit cards, it was noted by Mr. Barr that “all these people are out shopping” and Public Works purchasing needs to be centralized.

[Audio cut off 30 minutes into the meeting; balance of minutes taken from notes provided.]

With regard to the parking garage, garage services are currently outsourced. Should garage services be taken over by the Town, Public Works would include

that cost in their budget proposal.

3.4) FY 2007-2008 Operating Budget

It was noted that recovery of fire and police costs would help significantly. Recommendations should be presented before next Thursday. Reductions have been taken in all departments, although it is not known if the same percentages reduced are the same across the board.

3.5) Capital Improvement Projects FY 2008-2012

- A space utilization and build-out plan is needed.
- There should be a reserve fund of three months.
- Debt reduction needs to be addressed.
- Consideration should be given to ongoing maintenance and operating costs when planning capital expenditures.

**4 NEW BUSINESS**

4.1) Election of Chair and Vice Chair

**Motion** made by Vice Chair Spages, seconded by Mr. Barr, to reappoint Mr. Preziosi as Committee Chair. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Nomination made by Chair Preziosi, seconded by Mr. Barr, to reappoint Mr. Spages as Committee Vice Chair, which nomination was accepted unanimously.

4.2) Public Safety User Fees – Fire Chief DiPetrillo -Previously discussed.

**5. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS - None.**

**6. ADJOURNMENT - With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.**

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Date approved

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Chair/Committee Member